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LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 25 July 1996 (S/1996/682) enclosing the report of the International Commission of Inquiry in Burundi has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

The members of the Security Council are gravely concerned at the conclusions of the Commission set out in its report.

The members of the Security Council continue to attach the utmost importance to bringing to justice those responsible for the assassinations, the massacres and other acts of serious violence which occurred in and after October 1993. They note that the Commission considers that it is not in a position to identify by name the persons who should be brought to justice for those acts.

The members of the Security Council have also taken note of the recommendations made by the Commission. They note the conclusion of the Commission that these recommendations cannot be implemented under the conditions prevailing in Burundi as described.

The members of the Security Council are of the view that, once conditions permit, the recommendations of the Commission should be given further consideration. They believe it is vital that measures to deal with the problem of impunity should be addressed in the context of a negotiated political settlement in Burundi, as called for in Security Council resolution 1072 (1996), for which regional leaders, the Council and the wider international community are working urgently. They intend, therefore, to remain seized of the matter and to consider further action with regard to the report of the Commission in the light of development in the country.

The members of the Security Council note that the Commission was not able to function freely. They request you to convey to the Commission their

appreciation for the arduous and valuable work carried out by Commission members in extremely difficult circumstances.

(Signed) Alfredo LOPES CABRAL
President of the Security Council